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BCStats

Infoline

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- **BC exports jump 10.8% in July, ending a four-month long downturn**
- **Housing starts up 46.8% in August**
- **Building permits down 45.9% in first seven months of 2009**

The Economy

- **The value of BC origin exports surged (+10.8% *seasonally adjusted*) in July, following four consecutive months of declines.** Energy exports jumped 27.3%, reflecting the effect of higher export prices for gasoline. Shipments of industrial & consumer (+6.9%), machinery, equipment & automotive (+6.4%), agriculture & fishing (+6.2%) and forestry (+3.2%) products also saw marked improvements. Exports to the US were off slightly (-0.1%), as shipments of products in four of the five major commodity groups slipped. A solid increase in exports of machinery, equipment & automotive goods (+7.3%) south of the border was unable to offset the declines. Conversely, shipments to destinations other than the US soared 22.8%, largely because of double-digit increases in exports of industrial & consumer (+18.4%), agricultural & fish (+22.7%) and energy (+42.7%) products.

  Canadian exports (+3.3%) continued to rise in July, with shipments of machinery, equipment & automotive products among those fuelling the growth. The second consecutive monthly advance in Canadian exports was attributable to a 5.9% increase in volumes, as prices declined 2.4%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Housing starts in the province showed continued volatility in August, soaring 46.6% (*seasonally adjusted*), by far reversing a 7.1% slip in the previous month.** Canadian starts were up 12.1%, with many provinces posting double-digit growth. PEI (+66.7%) recorded the most substantial increase, but a 13.0% upsurge in Ontario had the biggest impact. Starts were off in New Brunswick (-2.6%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (-17.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued in British Columbia slipped 2.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, as a decline in planned spending on non-residential (-24.0%) projects offset a 19.8% increase in the value of residential permits.**

  In Vancouver, permits rose 42.8%, one of the most significant gains in the country, while Victoria (+8.3%) also posted an increase. However, Kelowna (-81.4%), and Abbotsford-Mission (-30.7%) saw substantial decreases.

  Nationally, permits fell 11.4% with decreases in other provinces ranging from 6.1% in Quebec to 27.5 % in Ontario. Other than BC and Alberta (-10.9%), all other provinces posted increases in July, the most notable of which was in PEI (+71.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, building permits were 45.9% lower than in the first seven months of 2008.** Decreases were seen in every region, including Mainland/Southwest (-52.3%), where the drop in the value of permits reflected significantly lower spending on residential and commercial projects. A 25.1% drop-off in Vancouver Island/Coast was concentrated in the residential and industrial sectors. Declines in other regions of the province ranged from 20.9% in North Coast to 52.7% in Kootenay, where the value of residential permits plummeted (-60.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Report

Tourism Sector Grows, but at a Slower Pace in 2008

Did you know...

There were 16.6 students for every educator in the province in the 2006/2007 school year

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The cost of new housing in BC's biggest metropolitan centres continued to fall in July.** Vancouver's New Housing Price Index was 8.0% lower than in July 2008, reflecting declining new home costs (-13.5%). Meanwhile, land value in Vancouver remained unchanged (+0.0%). New housing costs in the capital region were down even more substantially (-10.5%), as both the cost of new homes (-17.0%) and land prices (-0.4%) fell. Western Canada continued to pull the national index down (-3.2%), with Edmonton (-11.1%), Saskatoon (-10.6%) and Calgary (-7.3%) also posting hefty decreases. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Research and Development

- **In 2007/08, expenditures on research and development (R&D) in BC's higher education sector (HERD) increased $124 million to reach $1.1 billion (*current dollars*), 12.9% above 2006/07 levels.** Most of the funding for R&D in 2007/08 came from universities (40%) and the federal government (29%). Private non-profit organizations (14%), the provincial government (12%), business enterprises (4%) and foreign sources (1%) also provided funding.

  Nationally, spending on research and development in the higher education sector increased 5.8% from 2006/07 to reach $10.2 billion in the 2007/08 fiscal year. BC led all provinces in terms of growth, followed by Alberta (+9.3%) and PEI (+8.0%). Overall, the allocation of Canadian spending on R&D in this sector has remained fairly constant, with social sciences and humanities accounting for 20%, and health sciences (40%) and other natural sciences & engineering (40%) with larger shares. Ontario and Quebec combined provided 68% of total R&D spending of the higher education sector, while about one-quarter was performed in the Prairies (15%) and British Columbia (11%), with the remainder in the Atlantic Provinces (6%). The Alberta provincial government funded 23% of research and development performed by that province's higher education institutions, the highest share of any province. *Data Source: SC Cat. #88-001-XIE*

Education

- **Between 2000/2001 and 2006/2007, enrolment in BC's publicly funded elementary and secondary schools receded 7.3%, more than double the 3.5% decline in enrolment at the national level.** Among the nation's regions, only Alberta (+2.0%) reported an increase in enrolment.

  Despite the decline in overall registration, enrolment in second-language immersion programs at public schools in BC soared (+29.9%) over the same period, more than three times the pace at the national level (+9.5%). The province's high school graduation rate was close to 71% in 2006/2007, relatively unchanged from 2000/2001. Graduation rates were highest in the Atlantic provinces and Saskatchewan, and lowest in Alberta and the territories.

  Annually, it cost an average of $7,931 (current dollars) to educate a student in BC in 2000/2001. By 2006/2007, this had risen to $10,385. Nationally, the average cost of educating a student was $10,262 in 2006/2007 with the lowest cost found in Prince Edward Island ($8,594 per student) and the highest in Yukon ($20,772 per student).

  Data Source: SC Cat. #81-595-MIE

Firearms

- **As of June 2009, there were 893,034 registered firearms in British Columbia.** The province had approximately 213,000 valid firearms licence holders, suggesting an average of 4.2 guns per registered owner. Nation-wide, the number of registered guns has reached 7.4 million, approximately 184,000 more than recorded in June of last year. Nearly 2 million Canadians are licensed firearms holders. In 2008, the initial application screening led to the refusal of 478 firearms licence applications and continuous-eligibility screening led to the revocation of 1,800 firearms licences.

  Data Source: Canadian Firearms Center

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Contact: Chad Stroomer
250 387-0377
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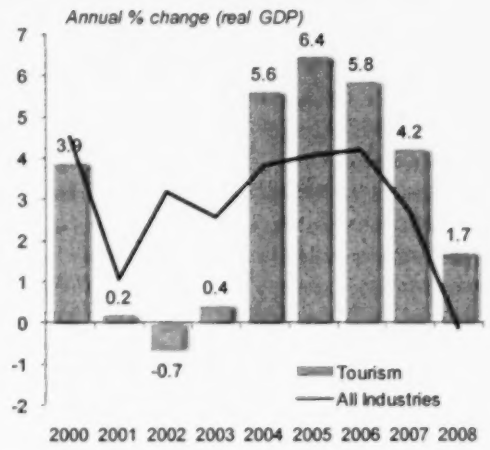
Tourism Sector Grows, but at a Slower Pace in 2008

British Columbia's tourism sector[1] plays an important role in the provincial economy, accounting for more than $6.6 billion (about 4%) of the province's real gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008[2]. Employment in the sector totalled 131,000 people–roughly one in every eighteen jobs in the province[3].

The province's tourism sector grew 1.7% in 2008, outpacing the rest of the economy for a fifth straight year. Although it outperformed the provincial economy (which shrank for the first time since 1982) the effects of a weakening global economy were felt in the tourism sector. All of the tourism-related industries posted gains, but the increases were well below the levels seen in recent years. From 2004 to 2007, the tourism sector as a whole grew at an average annual rate of 5.5%, more than three times the 1.7% increase posted in 2008.

Tourism-related transportation industries advanced 2.3%, and other services (such as amusement, recreation, vehicle rental and travel arrangement services) saw GDP climb 3.4%. Retailing (+0.6%) and accommodation & food services (+0.5%) posted only modest increases.

Tourism sector outperforms provincial economy, but growth slows in 2008



Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

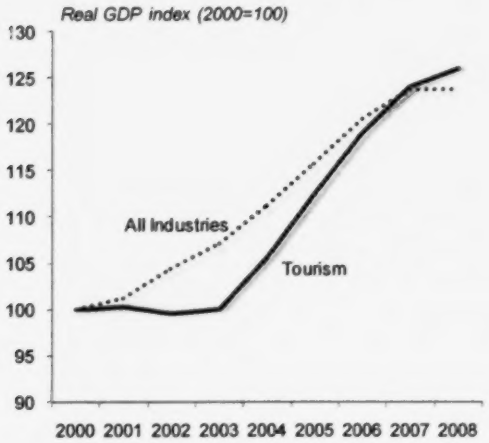
The comparatively strong performance of the tourism sector in 2008 is partly a reflection of the timing of the current economic slowdown. There were some indications that economic conditions were softening earlier in the year, but the full impact of the economic and financial crisis did not become evident until the fall, after the peak tourist season had ended. Most tourism indicators showed some volatility, but did not actually slip into a persistent decline until late in the year. The annual figures reflect developments throughout the year, which is why they remained positive despite the weakness near the end of 2008.

[1] BC Stats' tourism sector statistics program is supported and partly funded by Tourism BC. The data presented in this report was produced in partnership with Tourism BC.

[2] GDP estimates in this report are derived from data released by Statistics Canada in April 2009. A description of the methodology used to calculate GDP, employment and other tourism indicators is available in a document titles Measuring the Size of British Columbia's Tourism Sector at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

[3] The employment figures presented in this article are calculated using information from Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH). To ensure consistency when making comparisons, the all-industry employment total from SEPH is used in this document, rather than the more comprehensive employment figure from the Labour Force Survey.

Tourism sector took longer to recover from the slowdown at the beginning of the decade, but has since made up the lost ground



Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

Global economic conditions influence sector's performance

Tourist expenditures are usually discretionary, and decisions about whether or not to travel are influenced by current or perceived economic and social conditions both at home and at the traveller's ultimate destination. During periods of economic expansion, when consumers are confident about the future, spending on tourism-related goods and services tends to increase. However, tourist spending dries up quickly when the economy is in a slump, as is the case at present. Tourists may also choose to stay close to home if they are concerned about security (as was the case after 9/11), health issues (as was the case in 2003, and earlier this year during the Swine flu scare) and the difficulty or inconveniences associated with travelling.

The strong growth seen during the period from 2004 to 2007 was partly a reflection of relatively robust economic conditions in North America, since many visitors to BC come from other parts of Canada or the US. At the same time, travel to BC from further afield, especially Asian sources, was increasing and this provided a boost to the tourism sector.

Past experience also suggests that the tourism sector may take longer to recover from external shocks than is the case for the economy as a whole. The sector has been subjected to many external shocks over the last decade, including an economic slowdown in the US at the turn of the century, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, all of which had an adverse effect on tourism activities in British Columbia.

The current economic situation is far more serious than the relatively mild slowdown that occurred at the turn of the century. With BC, Canada, the US and many other countries experiencing ongoing recessionary conditions, it is highly unlikely that the province's tourism sector will be unaffected by the general malaise. The latest economic data suggest that the Canadian and US economies are still in the doldrums, and economic indicators relevant to tourism in BC, such as retail sales, room revenues, and visitor entries show that these industries have struggled through the first half of 2009. However, the upcoming 2010 Olympics may provide a much-needed boost to tourism industries in the province.

A note on GDP

GDP is a measure of the value added to the economy by a particular activity. It is calculated by subtracting the cost of supplies and services used to produce a good or service from total revenues. For example, the price of a restaurant meal covers the cost of food purchased to make the meal, the energy used to cook it, rent and other building expenses, cleaning supplies, accountant's fees, and so on. It also includes a mark-up intended to cover items such as wages, profits and depreciation. Although the restaurant uses food, energy and other inputs, its contribution to GDP is only the value added to the economy by the service it provided–the difference between the price paid by the consumer and the cost of inputs used by the restaurant.

The GDP figures reported in this article are reported in constant (2002) dollars. This means that they have been adjusted to eliminate the effects of price changes over time. They are measured at basic prices: i.e. they include subsidies but exclude some indirect taxes.

Key tourism activities

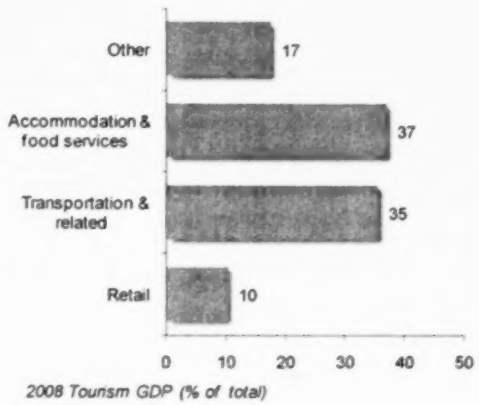
Many different types of services are included in the province's tourism sector. These range from accommodation & food services to transportation, retailing, recreation, travel arrangement and vehicle rental services, cultural services, and various other types of services used by tourists travelling in BC.

Within the tourism sector, accommodation & food services (37%) and transportation (35%) account for roughly equal shares of total GDP. Ten percent of the sector's GDP originates in retail activities, with other industries making up the remainder (17%).

Air transportation, related services (the operation of airports, harbours and so on) and water transportation are the biggest industries within the transportation category, which also includes bus, taxi and rail services.

In the retailing industry, souvenir, gift, book and luggage shops all sell items purchased by tourists, so some of the activities of these retailers are attributed to the tourism sector. Other key activities include food, drug, gas and RV sales, as well as general merchandise and clothing retailers.

Accommodation, food services and transportation services generate nearly three-quarters of the tourism sector's GDP



Data Source: BC Stats

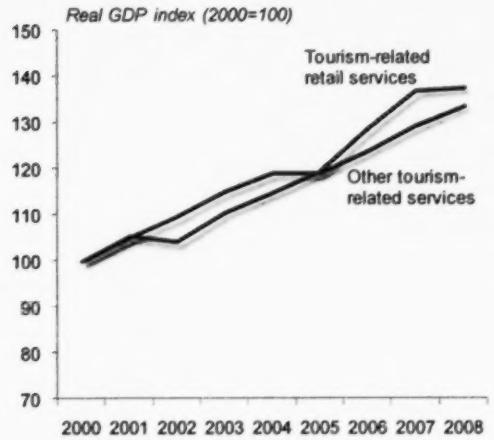
"Other tourism-related services" includes travel agents, vehicle rental agencies, an estimate of the value of vacation homes, performing arts, and a variety of other industries providing goods and services directly to tourists.

Long-term growth strongest in retail and other tourism services

Between 2000 and 2008, tourism sector GDP has increased by just over a quarter (26%), roughly the same pace as in the economy as a whole over this period (24%). Within the sector, however, there is some variation in performance. The strongest impetus for growth has originated in the sector's smaller industries. Since 2000, GDP in tourism-related retailing activities has advanced by more than one-third (+37%), expanding rapidly until only recently. Similarly strong

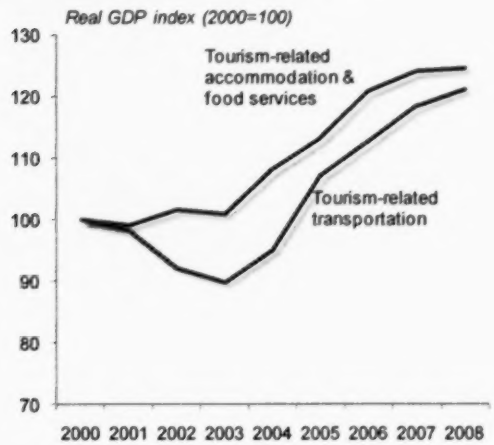
GDP growth (+34%) was observed in the other tourism-related industries, such as vehicles rental, tourism-related recreation and spending on vacation homes.

Retail and other tourism service industries have made strong gains since 2000...



Data Source: BC Stats

...and transportation & accommodation have regained some lost ground



Data Source: BC Stats

GDP in tourism-related transportation increased 21%, notwithstanding a rather abrupt drop during the early part of the decade. Since 2003, the industry has recovered lost ground as demand for transportation services by tourists has picked up. Recently, however, the jets have started to cool in lock-step with the rest of the economy, with GDP growth in 2008 slowing to less than half the rate (+2.3%) that was registered in 2006 (+5.2%) and 2007 (+5.2%).

Are tourism sector estimates comparable to data for other industries?

Yes, as long as care is taken to ensure that GDP or jobs are not double counted. Since the tourism statistics are calculated by apportioning a share of total GDP or employment in each industry to the tourism sector, the tourism-related component must be subtracted from total GDP or employment in the relevant industries before making any comparisons.

From 2000 to 2003, GDP growth in accommodation & food services stalled. In 2004 and beyond, however, the industry has been on a steady upward path punctuated by spurts of growth. Since 2000, accommodation & food services GDP has risen by one-quarter (25%), but, like all industries in the tourism sector, 2008 brought slower GDP growth.

Tourism sector revenues reach $13.8 billion in 2008

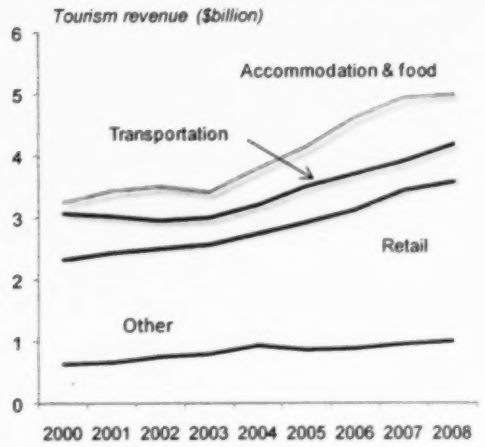
Tourism sector revenues reached $13.8 billion in 2008, up 4.2% from the previous year. Each of the sector's key industries saw revenue advance during the year. High gas prices helped drive the cost of transportation services up, and this was reflected in revenues, which jumped 7.4%, the biggest increase registered since 2005. Providers of retail (+4.4%) and miscellaneous (+5.1%) tourist-related services saw revenues increase, but at a slower pace than in previous years. Revenues at tourist-related accommodation & food service establishments rose only slightly (+1.3%).

How are tourism revenues calculated?

This is the first time that BC Stats has released revenue data for the tourism sector. Similar to GDP, revenue estimates for each tourism-related industry are derived directly from relevant annual and monthly data. A "tourism proportion" for each industry is applied to the revenue data to determine tourism revenues by industry[4].

The revenue data are presented in current dollars, so the effect of price changes, which are significant in some industries, is reflected in the data.

High gas prices helped keep transportation revenues on an upward track in 2008



Data Source: BC Stats

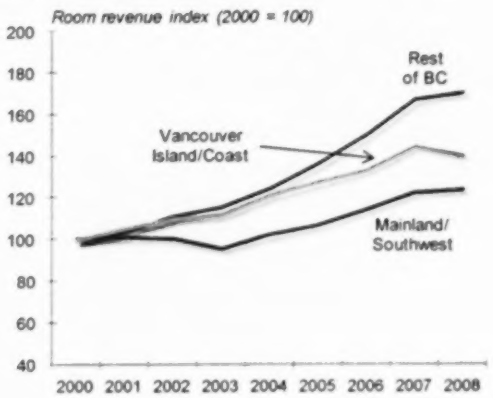
Like many other tourism indicators, tourism revenue has advanced steadily following a brief period of relatively slow growth at the start of the decade. Since 2000, revenues from tourism-related activities have risen by nearly half (+48%) with the lion's share of that increase occurring in the period since 2003.

As was the case with GDP, the tourism-related accommodation & food services (36%) and transportation (30%) industries generated the biggest share of total revenues. Retail industries account for a much larger slice (26%) of the revenue pie (more than two-and-a-half times the industry's share of total GDP). This is due to the fact that retailing requires a relatively large overhead including the purchase of goods from manufacturers and wholesalers for resale. The cost of goods purchased for resale is passed on to buyers (and thus contributes to revenues) but is not included in the industry's GDP.

Room revenues post weakest increase since 2003

Room revenues inched up just 0.7% in 2008, ending a four-year-long run of strong growth, which saw revenues climb at rates ranging from six to eight percent each year. This was only the second time since 2000 that room revenues have failed to increase significantly.

Room revenues have increased significantly since the start of the decade



Data Source: BC Stats

One of the regions hardest hit by the downturn in 2008 was Vancouver Island/Coast (-3.2%), which is usually popular with visi-

[4] See Measuring the Size of British Columbia's Tourism Sector available on our website at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

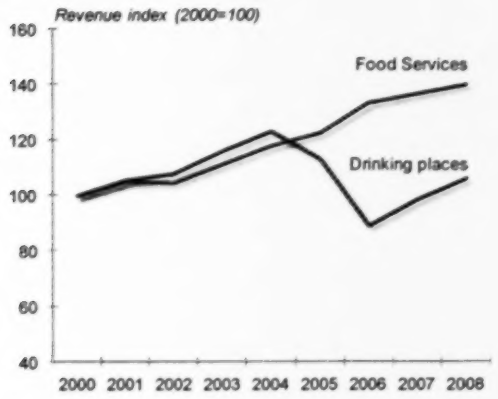
tors from the US and overseas. Nechako (-3.2%), North Coast (-1.1%) and Kootenay (-0.8%) also saw revenues shrink during 2008. Mainland/South-west (+1.1%), which accounts for more than half (53%) of total revenues in the province, fared better, and Northeast (+12.5%) posted a comeback after shrinking (-7.4%) in 2007.

Despite the recent slowdown, room revenues in the province have risen 38% since 2000, with even stronger growth seen in some regions of the province. Northeast (+163%), Thompson/Okanagan (+70%) and Kootenay (+64%) have posted substantial increases over the long term, while Nechako (+36%) and Cariboo (+44%) have posted more modest growth.

Restaurants and pubs still busy, but growth slows in 2008

Cash registers at food services and drinking places rang up 2.2% more sales in 2008 than in the previous year. This was the smallest increase recorded since 2002. Revenues at drinking places rose a substantial 7.7%, but restaurants and caterers posted a more modest 1.7% increase.

Revenues at drinking places making a comeback



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Despite the strong growth in 2008, BC's drinking places have not fared well during the last four years. Revenues dropped off sharply in 2006, and remain well below the 2004 level. Drinking places account for about 6% of total revenues in the food service & drinking places industry.

The increase in food service revenues is partially due to higher prices for restaurant meals. During 2008, the cost of restaurant meals in the province rose 2.6%, partly in response to rising food prices. This suggests that the increase in 2008 was probably price- rather than volume-driven. Most of the clients at restaurants and pubs are locals; it is estimated that tourists account for just under a quarter of their business. The continued upward trend in restaurant revenues suggests that despite uncertain economic times and rising prices, visitors and local residents are still patronizing BC eateries.

Tourism sector employs 131,000[5]

Employment in the tourism sector was estimated at 131,000 in 2008, up 2.7% from the number in the previous year. While job growth in the sector was largely driven by a moderate increase in the accommodation & food services industry (+3.5%), all of the key industries took on more workers. Employment in the tourism sector advanced at a rate in-line with the economy as a whole (+2.7%).

Approximately half (50%) of all workers in the tourism sector are employed in the accommodation & food services industry. The sector's second largest employer, transportation, provided jobs to a little more than

[5] This employment data excludes the self-employed. Self-employment is a significant factor in the tourism sector (and in the province as a whole). Information from the Labour Force Survey (a survey of households which includes the self-employed) suggests that the actual figure may be about 3% higher than what the SEPH data suggests.

one-quarter (26%) of those in tourism. Retail (14%) and other services (10%) provide jobs to the remaining members of the sector's workforce.

What is direct tourism employment?

Direct tourism employment is a measure of the number of people working in various industries that serve tourists. It includes workers in industries ranging from accommodation & food services to retailing and transportation.

Direct tourism employment estimates are generated by assigning a percentage of total employment in various industries to the tourism sector. These percentages are calculated by BC Stats based on information from various sources.

Steady employment growth since the beginning of the decade

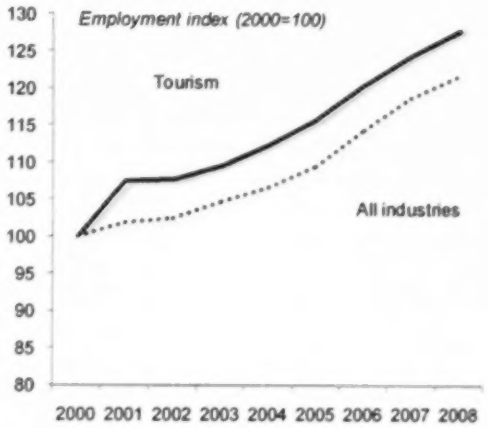
The number of jobs in the tourism sector has expanded by more than a quarter (+28%) since 2000, well ahead of the 22% increase in the economy as a whole, but this is largely due to stronger-than-average job growth at the beginning of the decade. Since 2001, the number of tourism jobs has increased at about the same rate as the all-industry average.

Increasing its workforce by 21%, the tourism-related transportation industry has seen employment grow at a rate slightly less than the provincial average.

In contrast, the accommodation & food services industry has seen tourism-related employment expand 29% since 2000. Employment in tourism-related retail services has advanced even more, jumping 41% over the same period while other tourism-related service providers have posted a 30% increase in the number of jobs.

It should be noted that these employment figures do not differentiate between full-time and part-time workers, so some of the job growth may be related to changes in the incidence of full-time and part-time employment.

Tourism employment is keeping pace with job growth in other industries



Data Source: BC Stats

Tourism workers earned $4.7 billion in 2008

A substantial increase in both average wages and the number of employees in the sector saw workers in the tourism sector bring home $4.7 billion in wages & salaries in 2008, an increase of 7.5% over the previous year, slightly more than the 6.9% increase registered in 2007. At 8.9%, workers in tourism-related retail services saw the largest jump in total wages and salaries; while 'other' tourist industries saw a more modest 5.8% rise in pay. Wages in accommodation & food services (+7.7%) and transportation (+7.3%) also increased.

For the tourism sector as a whole, earnings per worker are roughly three-quarters (76%) of the average for the economy as a whole. There are also some significant differences between the industries in the sector. Transportation, for instance, accounts for only a

quarter (26%) of tourism-related employment, but 41% of the total wage bill. Meanwhile, the tourism-related accommodation & food services industry employs roughly twice as many people, yet has a slightly smaller share (37%) of total wages.

There are a number of reasons that help explain this apparent discrepancy in the wage bill between industries. One reason is that many of the jobs in transportation require more training and higher levels of skill than in other tourism industries such as accommodation & food, which has historically been a strong employer of BC's youth, providing them with entry-level, lower paying positions during peak seasonal activity. Additionally, transportation is an industry that is highly unionized (50% of workers have union coverage) which may help keep wages relatively high compared to industries such as accommodation & food services, where just 8% of the workers have union coverage.

Hotel occupancy down slightly in 2008

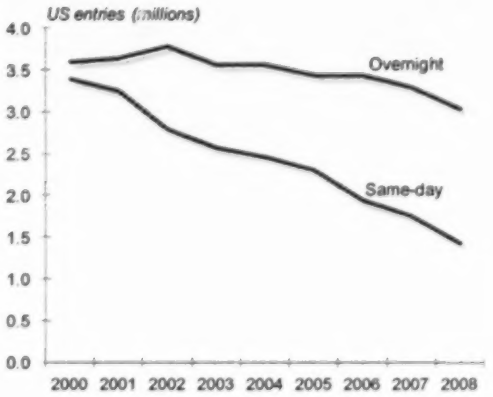
Hotel occupancy rates in the province dropped slightly in 2008, falling to just under 65%. Despite the decline, occupancy rates remain well above the 59% level recorded in 2001. Room rates climbed to an average of $133, an increase of 4.0% over the 2007 average.

Visitor entries fall for the seventh time in eight years

Visitor entries were down 8.9% in 2008 as the number of travellers coming to BC from the US continued to plummet, while overseas entries lost momentum. The US is the most important source of international travellers to the province (accounting for roughly three out of four visitors to BC), and entries from the US were down nearly 36% from a peak of over 7 million in 2000. The decline in entries predated the events of 9/11, as the US economy entered a brief slowdown at the turn of the century, but events following the terrorist attacks appear to have kept travel from the US on a downward path.

Same-day travel from the US is now less than half what it was in 2000, and while the number of overnight trips is also down, the decline has not been nearly as marked. Delays at the border, rising gas prices and an appreciating Canadian dollar have almost certainly contributed to this, but there may well be other factors at play. There are no signs that a turnaround is imminent, since it is unlikely that the number of American travellers will increase significantly until economic conditions south of the border improve.

Same-day travel from the US continues to decline



Data source: Pannell Kerr Forster

In recent years, an increase in the number of overseas visitors has helped compensate for the downturn in travel from the US. However, entries from overseas were flat (-0.1%) in 2008 as travel from both Asia (-3.8%) and Europe (-1.0%) declined. On the other hand, entries from other countries increased 10.0%, building on even stronger growth in the previous year.

BC airports flying high; ferry traffic down

Passenger traffic through Vancouver International Airport increased in 2008 (+1.3%) boosted by continued growth in domestic travel (+3.6%). A total of 17.9 million travellers passed through the Vancouver Airport in 2008, more than half of them (9.3 million) on domestic flights. The number of international travellers was also up (+1.3%) but not as much as in 2007. However, trans-border traffic through Vancouver's airport was off (-0.6%).

Victoria International Airport also handled record numbers of travellers in 2008 (+3.8%), marking the sixth straight annual increase in the number of travellers. More than 1.5 million people flew into or out of the airport, up more than one-third (+35%) from 2000 levels.

Passenger traffic on BC Ferries declined in 2008, with about 700,000 fewer passengers travelling on vessels plying the waters off the BC coast. Vehicle traffic on the ferries was also down, but less significantly.

Table 1: Tourism Sector Indicators

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Revenue ($million)	9,339	9,582	9,720	9,799	10,712	11,463	12,382	13,251	13,802
% change	*8.7*	*2.6*	*1.4*	*0.8*	*9.3*	*7.0*	*8.0*	*7.0*	*4.2*
GDP ($million)	5,048	5,191	5,238	5,233	5,667	6,182	6,667	7,081	7,382
% change	*5.0*	*2.8*	*0.9*	*-0.1*	*8.3*	*9.1*	*7.8*	*6.2*	*4.3*
Real GDP ($2002 million)	5,263	5,273	5,238	5,261	5,556	5,913	6,259	6,522	6,633
% change	*3.9*	*0.2*	*-0.7*	*0.4*	*5.6*	*6.4*	*5.8*	*4.2*	*1.7*
Implicit price index (2002 =100)	95.8	98.4	100.0	99.4	102.0	104.5	106.5	108.6	111.3
% change	*1.2*	*2.7*	*1.6*	*-0.6*	*2.6*	*2.5*	*1.9*	*2.0*	*2.5*
Employment, SEPH ('000)	102.4	109.9	110.1	112.2	115.1	118.5	123.4	127.5	131.0
% change	*0.5*	*7.3*	*0.2*	*1.9*	*2.6*	*3.0*	*4.1*	*3.3*	*2.7*
Wages & salaries ($million)	3,182	3,350	3,326	3,367	3,579	3,812	4,126	4,411	4,740
% change	*3.1*	*5.3*	*-0.7*	*1.2*	*6.3*	*6.5*	*8.3*	*6.9*	*7.5*
Consumption taxes	846	861	933	985	1,044	1,086	1,103	1,111	1,040
% change	*7.3*	*1.8*	*8.4*	*5.6*	*6.0*	*4.0*	*1.6*	*0.8*	*-6.5*

Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

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The workshop will include discussions on:

- Population growth – births, deaths and migration
- Population pyramids – rates and ratios
- Population estimates
- Population projections

VICTORIA

September 17, 2009
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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Canada

Infoline

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2009	% change on one year ago
BC	4,435.3	1.7
Canada	33,592.7	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 27)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	199,214	3.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,161	-0.3
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,466	-1.9
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,110	3.3
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun	2,714	2.0
Merchandise Exports - Jul	2,132	10.8
Retail Sales - Jun	4,416	0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2009)	one year ago	% change
BC	-1.6	1.2
Vancouver	-1.6	1.3
Victoria	-1.1	1.2
Canada	-0.9	1.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug '09	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,447	0.5
Employed - BC	2,256	0.4
Unemployed - BC	191	1.3
		Jul '09
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.8	7.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.7	8.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 9/2009	Sep 10/2008
Prime Business Rate	2.25	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.75	6.65
- 5 year	5.49	6.85
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 9/2009	Sep 10/2008
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0787	1.0738
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9251	0.9348
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '09	one year ago
BC	806.56	3.7
Canada	808.08	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Population & Household Projections

The latest British Columbia population projections (PEOPLE 34) are now available. BC Stats produces population and household projections for British Columbia and for a number of sub-provincial geographies in the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Health Authorities, Health Service Delivery Areas, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, and six Special Regions.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

British Columbia Wellness Atlas 2008

The dynamic and highly configurable atlas allows users greater flexibility to explore the regional variations and correlations of the wellness data. In total, 40 indicators are drawn from the CCHS (Canadian Community Health Survey) and 27 indicators are from the 2006 Census of Canada and 2008 Socio-Demographic variables from BC Stats. The Wellness Atlas presents information in a geographical context (Health Service Delivery Areas), revealing spatial variations and patterns across British Columbia. To display your own unique dataset, contact Pat Bluemel to discuss.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp

Regional Employment Projections

British Columbia's economy depends upon a skilled workforce for economic growth and well-being. Recent demographic forecasts have emphasized the need to increase the workforce in a variety of occupations. In response, BC Stats has developed a projection of the possible demand for labour by region, industry and occupation for 2008 to 2013.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, July 2009
- Tourism Sector Monitor, August 2009

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2009
- Consumer Price Index, August 2009

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca